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Washington, D.C. 20505

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13 March 1985

Dear Mort,

Thanks for your note of February 22nd about responding to accusations emanating from Managua. I agree with you on their importance and our people have already been tasked to help and to get information to you as soon as they develop it. I would trust by this time you have been provided with refutations of some of the earlier accusations.

Yours.

William J. Casey

The Honorable Morton I. Abramowitz
The Director of Intelligence and Research
Department of State
Washington, D. C. 20520

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH WASHINGTON

February 22, 1985

SECRET/SENSITIVE

The Honorable William J. Casey Director of Central Intelligence Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Bill:

The U.S. media have recently featured a spate of stories, emanating from Managua and sometimes from Tegucigalpa, alleging FDN atrocities. INR has concluded that there is precious little evidence for these stories, though there may have been a few abuses by the FDN. For the most part, they smack of Sandinista propaganda. However, we have seen no exhaustive all-source intelligence study of the accusations and I do not have the horses to undertake it. I wonder if your people could do it and suggest that the study might:

- -- Track the specific accusations.
- -- Make judgments wherever possible, about the veracity of specific charges.
- -- Describe how, where and by whom the charges were first made (I understand that some of the Honduran charges may be traceable to a fabricator there).
- -- Track the dissemination trail to see how many were fed by the Sandinistas or their known allies.

In a related issue, there are reports that the Sandinistas have been forcing or fostering the transportation of civilians in military vehicles through contested areas to discourage FDN attacks on legitimate military targets. Shielding of military targets would result in civilian casualties for the Sandinistas to exploit in the international media. The FSLN may also be issuing coffee pickers military weapons and uniforms and sending them into active conflict areas. And a sensitive report establishes conclusively that one so-called ambush of civilians actually involved a clash between FDN insurgents and Sandinista troops. This whole issue of civilian casualties could be the subject of a similar, detailed all-source study.

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I know you are aware of the importance of these matters and hope your people can help on them.

Sincerely,

Morton I. Abramowitz

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